CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for evaluating a boot source in a computer system having a processor comprising the steps of:

(a) determining the boot source used by the processor each time the computer system boots; and

(b) allowing the boot source to be specified once as a known boot source.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the known boot source ensuring step (b) further includes the step of:

(b1) specifying that the known boot source to be a FLASH boot source.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the specifying step (b1) further includes the step of:

(b1i) writing an identity of the FLASH boot source in a write-once register which identifies the boot source for future boots.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining step (a) further includes the step of:

(a1) writing an identity of the boot source in a register each time the computer system boots.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

(c) checking the boot source determined in step (a) to ensure that the boot source is the known boot source.

6. A system for evaluating a boot source in a computer system having a processor coupled with a boot source, the system comprising:

a first register for storing an identity of the boot source used by the processor each time the computer system boots; and

a second register for allowing the boot source to be specified once as a known boot source.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein the computer system includes a bridge coupling the processor with the boot source and wherein the first register and the second register are located in the bridge.

8. The system of claim 7 wherein the bridge is a south bridge.

9. The system of claim 6 wherein the known boot source is written only once to the second register.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein the known boot source is a FLASH boot source.

11. The system of claim 6 wherein the identity of the boot source is written to the first register each time the computer system boots.

12. The system of claim 6 wherein the processor is capable of checking the boot source stored in the first register to ensure that the boot source is the known boot source.